The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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SUGAR BOYCOTT IS BEYOND COURT CONTROL

This nation's highest court has declared it is illegal to boycott stoves and hats, but the women of this country have ignored these decisions and brought untold losses to sugar profiteers.

The sugar boycott is the most extensive that was ever staged in this country.

Even the White House is encouraging the attack. In fact, it is quite the proper thing to be a sugar boycotter, which has become fashionable overnight. A few years ago the contrary was true.

Danbury hatters boycotted an anti-union hat manufacturer. The A. F. of L. backed the hatters. The court held it is illegal to boycott hats and seized the homes of workers.

Following this, union metal polishers boycotted a stove manufactured in St. Louis. The firm declared for the anti-union shop. The A. F. of L. aided the polishers. The dispute was finally adjusted but not before the court held it is unlawful to boycott stoves. And to emphasize that point the court came near jailing President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Frank Morrison.

In both of these boycotts the workers were charged with maintaining a conspiracy in restraint of trade.

That's what this sugar gougers now charge. These profiteers use the same language against the women that the courts used against the stove and hat boycotters.

The sugar boycotters have a few practical advantages over the stove and hat boycotters. The high price of sugar is full of political dynamite because the administration does not want to interfere with prices. Therefore it winks at the boycott.

And that's why Attorney General Daugherty is not heard pleading before some federal injunction judge for the constitution, the flag, the lawful right to do business, etc., etc.

In principle, there is no difference between the sugar boycott and the stove and hat boycotts, but no judge would enjoin the sugar boycotters. He would be laughed off the bench.

Even injunction judges can see a stone wall. They have given no encouragement to attorneys for the sugar profiteers who suggest, as "friends of the court," that the sugar boycott is an attack on private property and is an interference with interstate commerce."

Defenders of the labor injunction will attempt to show why the stove and hat boycotts were illegal, but not the sugar boycott.

They will profoundly discuss the elements of conspiracy and will divide and subdivide into atoms and eons the purposes and intent of the sugar boycotters as against the ditto, ditto of the stove and hat boycotters.

This fine-spun reasoning, however, does not alter the fact that the boycott is costing sugar owners dollars where the stove and hat owners lost pennies.

Popular approval of the women's refusal to buy sugar, and their collective action to that end, supports labor's claim that it had the right to collectively refuse to buy a certain stove or a hat.

The sugar boycotters have upset the theory that business men have a property right in patronage, and that this can be protected by injunction process.

The courts will not attempt to enforce this theory because they can not enjoin the nation.

The sugar boycotters have shown that this elemental defense against injustice is beyond the control of injunction judges when it is applied with Napoleon's theory—hurl every ounce of energy at the point of attack and bring every reserve force into the fight.

Let workers remember that the injunction judges never enjoin popular movements, and that the labor injunction shrivels under the white heat glare of publicity.

REACTION USES "REVOLUTORS" TO DESTROY SEAMEN'S UNION

San Francisco, May 12.—Ship owners in the United States are "employing reds in Europe and the I. W. W. in this country" to destroy the International Seamen's union, said Andrew Furuseth, president of that organization, in a public statement.

The purpose of the ship owners is to remove the barrier against their violation of laws that protect life and property at sea, the trade union executive charged.

"The ship owners, more especially the eastern shipowners, do not like these laws. They tried to have them repealed, and when this failed, even during the war, they set to work to disobey them without the slightest hesitation.

"The ship owners, finding that the International Seamen's union of America stood in the way of such lawlessness, promptly set out to abolish the union. They began seriously two years ago—about May 1. It has continued ever since.

"In January, 1921, the ship owners suggested a reduction of wages and a reduction in the overtime pay. The unions refused to meet and agree, providing that we could come to an agreement under which the members of the unions would be protected in their jobs in employment. The ship owners refused.

"The unions then offered to waive unionism, providing that American citizens be given the preference, and after that such preference as had taken out intention papers. This was refused.

"The unions then offered to refer the whole matter to the president and to work one year for such wages and under such conditions as he might determine. This was also refused.

"The unions made these offers because they knew that foreign interests, mixed with some domestic interests, had determined to destroy the prospects of any real American competition on the seas.

"For this purpose they chose to employ the reds of Europe and the I. W. W. in this country. The ship owners have employed them in every way ever since.

"While representatives of the unions were denied admission to the vessels, the representatives of the Marine Transport Workers (I. W. W.) were not so hindered.

"The unions knew what was to be the program of the ship owners and sought to thwart it; they knew that the I. W. W. had members mixed with the union membership. The leader of them was expelled from the union. This was followed by the expulsion of some 50 or 60 of his followers.

"These expelled men have been carried by the vessels since, in so far as their services were liked. They have sailed and they have continued their propaganda. They have refused to meet and agree, providing that we could come to an agreement under which the members of the unions would be protected in their jobs in employment. The ship owners refused.

"The maintime real seamen have left the calling. Real seamen are so scarce that vessels are delayed; they are sailing short handed in skill and numbers. The passenger vessels are more unsafe than they have been out here during my experience.

"If the ship owners' policy is continued it will destroy all chances of a decent personnel. Let the ship owners get out of the bed they have made."

NAVY YARD WORKERS BLOCKED WAGE CUTS

Washington, May 12.—Organized employes of the government navy yards have made a successful protest to Secretary of the Navy Denby against a wage award by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt.

The award was declared "a crazy quilt." Under the law of July 16, 1862, navy yard wages are required to conform to rates paid in private industry as nearly as is consistent with public interest. In this instance the navy yard wage board attempted to use, in some cases, the building trades rates where they are advantageous to it, in other instances applied ship yard rates which represent an industry still in the trough of an industrial depression. The scheme resulted in a weird and variegated rate sheet. Its workings can be understood when it is known that - Boston pipe fitter would receive 98 cents an hour and a highly skilled machinist would be paid 71 cents. At the Washington navy yard a pipe fitter would receive 70 cents an hour and a machinist would be paid 73 cents. At Portsmouth, N. H., an electrician would receive 95 cents an hour and at Norfolk, Va., he would be paid 71 cents.

Secretary of the Navy Denby was called upon by James O'Connell, president of the metal trades department, A. F. of L.; W. H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, and P. P. Alifas, president District 44 (I. A. of M.), representing all machinists in the federal employ. These unionists convinced the navy chief of the unfairness of the award, and the assistant secretary of the navy has ordered the convening of a new wage board, and the proposed award is held in abeyance.

The department has issued new regulations for the determination of wages and has eliminated the annual rate consideration and requires a list of private firms to be made out covering each trade.

The departmental wage board has also been changed. Rear Admiral J. K. Robinson will be chairman of the board, in place of Rear Admiral Joseph Strauss, who was largely responsible for the unsatisfactory wage scale.

Sanity Replaces Force; Probe Negro Migration

Jackson, Miss., May 12.—Jailing labor agents to stop the migration of negroes seems to have been discarded in this section by business men and plantation owners. The latter have appointed a committee composed of eight white men and five negroes to study the critical labor situation because of negro migration.

J. M. Williamson, negro professor of Grenada, and a member of the committee, told his colleagues that the negro has gone north for two reasons —one is they have lost confidence in the white man and the other is the violation of their civic rights.

"The masses of the negro race want to stay south, but they are not going to do it under present conditions," he said.

W. W. Stone, former state treasurer and a large plantation owner, said:

"I have lived in the delta for 60 years. I have lived among and handled negroes and the reason why the negro is leaving Mississippi is because the chickens are swindling them. Some white men are swindling them. I know lots of planters who have become rich in this section. They think they are fooling the negro, but they are not."

STRIKE ASSESSMENT CUT.

Indianapolis, May 12.—The strike assessment of the International Typographical Union has been reduced to 2 per cent by order of the executive council of that organization. When the 44-hour strike started, two years ago, the assessment was 10 per cent. In a notice to secretaries of local unions, the council says:

"Forty-four-hour conditions have been established in the great majority of jurisdictions, and 90 per cent of the members of the International Typographical union employed in the commercial offices are enjoying its benefits. Consequent decreases in the number of members receiving strike rolls, and economies in expenditures, have enabled the executive council to reduce the strike assessment.

"The time has arrived, in the opinion of the council, when the 44-hour week in all but a few jurisdictions, where it is necessary to consider the question, a still shorter work week has been fully established as the rule of the trade."

FEW PAY HIGH TAX.

Washington, May 12.—Income tax figures for 1920 show that 15,542 individuals, with incomes over $65,000, representing about one-fifth of 1 per cent of all taxpayers, paid $484,779,337 in taxes (normal and surtax), or 45.09 per cent of the total tax payments, which amounted to $1,075,554,686.

WARD BAKING TRUST OPERATES ANTI-UNION

Chicago, May 12.—The Ward Baking company, with branches in several cities, has refused to enter into an agreement with organized bakery workers, and is attempting to operate on the anti-union basis.

This corporation is the largest bread trust in America.

During the anti-union wave of 1921 the Ward company enforced a 15 per cent wage reduction on its bakery workers, although its financial report showed there was no excuse for such action.

In the spring of 1922 the company attempted to destroy the eight-hour day and reduce wages another 10 per cent. That year the company paid its usual 8 per cent dividend, with an additional 5 per cent cash dividend and a 20 per cent stock dividend. Its profits that year were $2,492,123, or 22.6 per cent of its capitalization, which includes materials.

In view of this prosperity, the bakery workers recently requested that the 1921 wage reduction be withdrawn. The company was with an anti-union declaration—that it would be dead easy with bakery workers; that these employes must henceforth meet the management as individuals.

The fight against this anti-union policy is being directed by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' union of America, an organization that in 40 years has lifted the bakery craft from a dead-level of sixty hour, long hours, toilsome night work, low wages and unsanitary work conditions. And this union can not be accused of this aggressive organization, which is now called upon to battle for its existence.

The issue not only affects the entire trade union movement and organized labor everywhere will support the bakery workers.

LABOR SHORTAGE CLAIM NOT BORNE OUT BY FACTS

Albany, N. Y. May 12.—Industrial Commissioner Shientag of this state does not accept the claim that there has been a shortage of labor, so feverishly alleged by employers and newspapers. The state official indicates that these forces were just fooling the public because some of the labor surplus was disappearing. The commissioner indicts these employers and editor as follows:

"The last year much has been heard of a labor shortage, following close on a winter of extensive unemployment.

"There has been a growing conviction, however, that the shortage has been rather commonly exaggerated. The so-called shortage appears to have been the elimination of a readily available surplus rather than an actual scarcity, with the exception of a few trades and callings."

Mining Is Not Interstate Commerce, Says High Court

Washington, May 12.—In upholding the occupation tax laid by Minnesota on mining, operation of iron ore mines in that state, the supreme court rejected the mine owners' claim that this tax is an interference with interstate commerce.

"Mining is not interstate commerce, but, like manufacturing, is a local business subject to local regulation and taxation," said the court.

"No attempt is made here with previous rulings by the court that there is a difference between production and transportation. Even though an article is intended for interstate commerce, it is not commerce until it is actually placed on the railroad car."

This decision will be of interest to organized leather workers and the trade generally, especially as the leather workers have a case pending before the supreme court which involves the same issue.

The leather workers struck in St. Louis. The employers secured an injunction on the ground that their contracts could not be fulfilled and that this constituted an interference with interstate commerce.

RENEW OLD THREATS.

Baltimore, May 12.—Employes of the Mount Vernon-Woodberry mills here have walked out in protest of pension conditions, and the company renews the threat made in 1922 that it will remove its plants to the south.

When it made that statement, a quarter of a century ago, it was fighting a child labor bill.

The workers have been organized by the United Textile Workers of America, A. F. of L. Organization activities include: assisting the strikers, said the company only maintained its pension system while living because employes lived in company-owned houses.

METAL WORKERS ADVANCE

Peoria, Ill., May 12.—Sheet metal workers have advanced wages from 87½ cents an hour to $1 an hour.

PEACE IN COAL INDUSTRY POSSIBLE THROUGH UNITY

Washington, May 12.—"Complete unionization of the coal fields of the country would go a long way toward affording a solution of the coal problem, because it would mean the universal adoption of the principle of collective bargaining."

The above is one of the statements in a communication addressed to the United States coal commission by the United Mine Workers of America.

The communication embodies specific suggestions offered by Murray, international vice president, and William Green, international secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Murray suggests:

"1. The guarantee of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of movement.

"2. The right of all workers to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

"3. The protection of mine workers against discrimination because of membership in the United Mine Workers of America or any other labor organization.

"4. The assurance that democratic institutions, such as the United Mine Workers of America, will not be subordinated to industrial control by the practice of the non-union coal operators in paying and controlling sheriffs and constables, or by employing private guards, instead of using the services of commissioned and conscientious peace officers.

"These are the simple fundamentals which will remove the obstacles to establish the normal conditions of a self-governing republic in these regions. They are so elementary that it is so obvious that their absence at present seems incredible. Assertions by the United States Steel corporation that they should become effective would commend itself everywhere to the sound and right thinking citizenship of our country."

Vice President Green declares that collective bargaining and union recognition go hand in hand.

"In fact," he says, "there can be no recognition of the principle of collective bargaining without a corresponding recognition of the right of the workers to organize into trade unions.

"Collective bargaining is a meaningless term, void of any virtue and of no consequence whatever when the workers are denied the right to organize and union recognition is not accorded them.

"To deny workers the right to organize is nothing more than improper interference with the exercise of an inherent right and the normal activities of a free people."

Secretary Green reminded the commission that strikes were constantly encountered in the operation of non-union mines. He said "union recognition and joint wage agreements provide the only way through which the industry can be stabilized.

"It may be charged by those opposed to union recognition and collective bargaining that if the United Mine Workers were completely organized they would strike and paralyze the industries of the nation at will," Mr. Green continued. "It must be frankly admitted if this were true it would constitute a grave menace to the welfare, comfort and happiness of the American people.

"But the experience shows that responsibility sobers men so that they seriously consider their obligations and duties to themselves and to the public low men. They hesitate under the weight of such responsibility to incur public displeasure and to fly in the face of public opinion. Then back of it all is the powerful, irresistible force of public sentiment.

"It is this powerful, compelling moral force which, after all, settles every great question affecting the public interest. The inevitable result of the workings of such a plan would be to make agreements for fixed periods of time and uninterrupted operation of the coal mines."

BABIES CAN NOT LIVE UNDER LOW-WAGE PLAN

Washington, May 12.—Gary, Ind., a steel trust town, is an illustration of what low wages, poor housing and sanitation and lack of public welfare activity can have on the lives of children.

In a study of Gary by the United States children's bureau, it is stated that "an increase of infant mortality with a fall in the earnings of the fathers for chief breadwinners was again demonstrated, as in the preceding studies."

"For the year of the Gary study, when the chief breadwinners' earnings amounted to $1,800 or more, the infant death rate was 89.4 per 1,000; when the earnings were between $1,050 and $1,800 the rate increased to 127.1; when the earnings fell below $1,505, the rate rose to 137.8. More than a third of the Gary native white mothers, but less than one in 12 of those having foreign-born mothers, were in receipt of the chief breadwinner earned $1,850 or more.

"At the time of the study certain districts of the city embodied many of the conditions of pioneer life, the report states. Squatter's rights on land might be purchased for a yearly fee of $1 to $2 and a shack put up, pieced together with scraps of lumber and tin cans. Not only these buildings, but many regularly constructed houses were without water or sewage connection. No reference has been made to building conditions the past year.

FOOD COSTS GO UP.

Washington, May 12.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that food costs increased as follows in March, 15 to April 15: Denver and St. Louis, 1 per cent; Cincinnati, Detroit, Little Rock, Louisville, Milwaukee, Newark, Norfolk and Omaha, 1 per cent; Washington, D. C., less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

There was a 1 per cent decrease in Boston, Fall River, Manchester, N. H., and less than five-tenths of 1 per cent decrease in Bridgeport, Butte and New Haven.

For the year period April 15, 1922, to April 15, 1923, the 17 cities showed these increases: Bridgeport, 7 per cent; Denver, 6 per cent; St. Louis, 5 per cent; Boston, Detroit, Fall River, Little Rock, Milwaukee, Newark, New Haven and Omaha, Me., 4 per cent; Louisville, 2 per cent; Cincinnati, Norfolk, Omaha and Washington, D. C., 1 per cent; Butte, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

GUARDS COST MILLIONS.

Chicago, May 12.—Attorney General Daugherty's assistants testified in Federal Judge Wilkerson's court that nearly 12,000,000 was spent by the department of justice for special deputy marshals and their expenses during the shop strike.

PICKETING DENIED LOCKED OUT SHOP MEN

Scranton, Pa., May 12.—Hugh Hanahan, chairman of the shop men's committee of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad, has been arrested in contempt of court by Common Pleas Judge Newcomb, who says the union leader violated his permanent anti-picketing injunction against the shop men.

The injunction is about the last word for a vicious denial of every right. The usual prohibition against picketing law is contained in the writ, but this is a screen erected by Judge Newcomb to bring the judiciary to the aid of a strikebreaker. It says that the strikers can not interfere with the company's employes by personal violence or by any other means calculated or intended to prevent such persons from entering or continuing in the employ of said plaintiff." The injunction prohibits strikers from even conversing with strikebreakers.

Judge Newcomb defended Lackawanna shop strikers 22 years ago. At that time he called strikebreakers "scabs" in open court to show his contempt for this element.

NEW HAVEN ENGINES ARE DECLARED UNFIT

Newport, R. I., May 12.—Traffic on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad was held up several hours when government inspectors ordered six locomotives out of commission because of their dangerous condition.

The engines standing on sidetracks waiting for trains were condemned, as were engines that pulled passenger trains into the city.

Because of the long delays angry passengers were in a mood to listen to the story of railroad shop men, who placed the blame for present conditions on the anti-union policy of the New Haven management.

RECALL PICKET DECISION

New York, May 12.—Clear profits of $1,539,328 for the first three months of 1923 were announced by the American steel foundries. This corporation is responsible for a decision by the supreme court of the United States, handed down by Chief Justice Taft, which declared, in effect, that courts can not restrict the number of pickets strikers may use. The decision was rendered in the Bedford Granite City case, in December, 1921. The corporation has a plant at Granite City, Ill., and was involved in a strike by attempting to cut wages.

U. S. MAY REGULATE COAL

Washington, May 12.—Governmental regulation of coal will follow another experience like last winter's, is the belief of United States Senator Walsh of Massachusetts. He said New England "is gravely menaced" over the failure of the people of that section to secure coal.

DOLLARS INVOLVED IN GARY'S STAND

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 12.—Judge Gary has raised wages of his unorganized unskilled workers to 40 cents an hour, and great is the jubilation in reaction's camp.

The organized hod carriers in this city have raised wages to $1 an hour, formerly they were 90 cents. The organized common laborers in the building trades have raised wages from 50 cents an hour to 60 cents an hour.

This difference between organized and unorganized common laborers in America's steel center would indicate that Judge Gary and his kind are not blind to the dollar mark when they plead for the "independence" of American workers.

DUAL TRADE UNIONISTS WELCOMED BY BUSINESS

Charlotte, N. C., May 12.—A sensation in local labor circles was the appearance in this city of officers of the so-called International Textile Workers as an alleged "tour of inspection" of southern mills, as guests of a Fall River (Mass.) manufacturer.

The Amalgamated is not recognized by the American Federation of Labor as it is dual to the United Textile Workers of America. Some of the younger members of organized labor were invited to meet the leaders of officers of so-called "revolutionary" organizations, could not understand how these anti-union leaders could be guests of business men, be entertained at the Rotary club, and make no attempt to sign agreements for fixed periods of time and uninterrupted operation of the coal mines."

RAIL PARLEY CALLED BY PROGRESSIVE BLOC

Washington, May 12.—The progressive bloc in congress, headed by Senator La Follette, has called a national conference on railroad valuation to meet here May 25. Several governors will also attend.

This is the first concerted movement to insure proper representation of the public interest in the valuation proceedings before the interstate commerce commission and the courts," said Senator La Follette.

These progressives believe that the public is entitled to consideration problems of transportation, are to be found in the valuation work. Unless said Senator La Follette, who added that "it has been discovered that the public interest is not being properly or adequately represented in the proceedings before the interstate commerce commission.

"This movement for the equitable valuation of the railroads of the United States is not to be interpreted as an attack upon the interstate commerce commission. Up to the present time the commission has been in the position of having only one side—the railroad—adequately represented before it. We propose that in the future the public interest shall be clearly and adequately maintained, so that the commission will not be obliged to bear the entire burden of protecting the people's rights."

CHILD NEGLECT SCORED.

Richmond, Va., May 12.—Speakers at the annual convention of the association of governmental labor officials of the United States declared that the United States is helpless in dealing with child labor. In reference to decisions of the supreme court, one delegate said:

"It is now clear that the national government—the government to which you and I owe allegiance—is the only government which can draft our boys for war and take every dollar's profit, but property for lawful use—cannot move a peg for taking care of the children. The future looks as even if they are being worked 13 hours or longer each day."

STEEL BREAKS RECORD.

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 12.—Steel mills are smashing all records in the production of steel ingots. The output has attained at the rate of approximately 44,000,000 tons a year. Never before has production reached 40,000,000 tons a year.

The flow of finished steel is so heavy that it has checked the unprecedented demand for rails temporarily, and while in some cases forced business men to pay a bonus for tonnage. The new record shows what can be accomplished by the industrial production forces of this country with the labor now here.

The steel record was being made when steel mill owners were loudest in the cry for immigration.

LABOR POWER LOST: ALIENS NOT WANTED

New York, May 12.—"What is needed in this country is not more labor, but a better direction of what we have," says the editor of "Power," a publication "devoted to the power problems of all industries."

"Although this country leads the world in applying machinery to man's service, we are one of the most wasteful nations of the world," says the editor.

"Much has been done toward remedying this condition, but there still remains an appalling waste, not only in materials but also in human endeavor. Some of our industrialists would have the bars against immigration lowered to flood the country with cheap labor so that the old order of waste may continue.

"In some industries our wasteful methods are costing more than twice as many workers as would be required if properly employed. Although the coal industry is one of the worst offenders in this respect, it is by no means the only guilty one. Unnecessary human cases conditions are getting worse instead of better."

"Power" estimates that 300,000,000 working days a year are lost through accidents, 80 per cent of which are preventable. This means an annual waste of 1,000,000 working people.

"Owing to illness and non-industrial accidents another million are continually idle from employment," it is stated. "Estimates of this condition indicate that over 50 per cent is preventable."

SORDID LABOR POLICY WRECKS WESTERN ROAD

New York, May 12.—The result of the sordid labor policy of hard-boiled financiers now ruling railroad shop men is shown in the case of the Missouri Pacific railroad.

The report of the president of that road shows there is a difference of nearly $6,500,000 between the profits of 1921, when no strike existed, and 1922.

The report shows a deficit of $1,413,712 for last year. From outside sources Wall street learns that "deferred maintenance of equipment, last year accumulated to the extent of about $1,500,000." This is another way of saying that necessary repairs to equipment have not been made, and thus the actual deficit is about $2,900,000.

When it is considered that net profits, after all charges, in 1921 was $3,537,016, the contrast between the two years amounting to nearly $6,500,000, becomes glaring.

HUGE OIL PROFITS.

New York, May 12.—The Pan-American petroleum and transport company reports a net profit last year of $31,-973,447. During this year are running ahead of 1922, and promise to reach $33,000,000, or $36,000,000.

The company has cash and United States treasury notes to the value of $21,139,000, and has been forced by Doheny to remark that "we feel very comfortable."

SEABOARD IS O. K.

New York, May 12.—Trade unionists are reminded that the Seaboard Air Line is one of the first southern railroads to reach an agreement with its shop men. Such agreement has been made with the anti-union Atlantic Coast Line, which maintains a lockout against shop men. There is nothing in common between the two systems.

DESERT LUMBER CAMPS.

Eureka, Cal., May 12.—Young chaps from the east, who were lured into the red woods by company agents are deserting them in droves, all after getting one meal at the camp. It is described as "rotten" food, mostly stale bread, and a total disregard for cleanliness makes these camps unfit for humans.

B. & O. PROSPERS.

Baltimore, May 12.—Fortune has smiled on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad since it reached an agreement with railroad shop men. It is declared that the recovery of this road has been most remarkable, and is in contrast with the Pennsylvania, Delaware & Hudson, Lehigh Valley, New Haven, Lackawanna, and other eastern systems that are maintaining the lockout.

CHEAP WAGE BOSSES IGNORE NO-TEETH LAW

Washington, May 12.—The Massachusetts minimum wage law that depends on public opinion for its enforcement is anything but a success, according to a report from A. F. of L. Organizer Frank H. McCarthy, of Boston, to Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L.

Under the law, the commission has no power to enforce its decisions but shall publish the names of non-complying employers. The practical operation of the law, says Organizer McCarthy, is that the commission gives just enough publicity to these non-complying firms "to say that it gives such publicity."

"If an employer refuses to accept its decision the commission will insert for one day, in a paper published in the locality in which he conducts business, the name of the publication fact that he failed to comply with the decision. That is the commencement and the end of the publicity. You ask, 'Is there any public opinion that condemns these employers?' Orally, yes. Practically, as the facts show.

"Since the law has been in effect, 11 such announcements have been made, involving seven firms, and the firms whose names were published continued right along without any noticeable change to indicate that the heavy hand of public opinion had been laid upon any of them.

"The commission itself, realizing that its decisions lack necessary influence to force, has applied to the present legislature to make its decisions compulsory, and the legislature recommitted the bill. The present minimum wage law be given five years' further trial before any changes be made."

In regard to the general effect of the law, Organizer McCarthy says:

"My opinion is that greater progress would have been made without the law than with it, as the workers would have had no false notions about power and would realize that they had to depend upon themselves."

SCHARRENBERG OUSTED.

San Francisco, May 12.—Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the State California state federation of labor, has lost his job as a member of the immigration and housing commission. He has no salary connected with the position, but was one of the first appointed by Governor Richardson, who says he "has been trying to find a reason to get rid of" him. Scharrenberg is a staunch friend of the immigration law.

It is charged that the governor decapitated Scharrenberg at the request of anti-union interests who style themselves the better American federation. The unionist has been continually attacked by the Los Angeles Times because he has insisted that ranch owners obey the law. Outside of this principle involved, Scharrenberg is not objecting to losing any other state job, opportunity for aiding humanity is taken from him. The incident has advertised the governor in a manner he did not anticipate.

FAVORS COOLIE LABOR.

Hartford, Conn., May 12.—Leonard J. Nickerson, former speaker of the Connecticut house of representatives, and recently appointed judge of the superior court, favors the importation of coolie labor to meet the present shortage.

"The coolie is the best laborer on earth," said the new judge, which indicates his attitude toward labor's efforts to improve conditions.

"The coolie will work hard all day long, and he won't stop at 4 o'clock, either. He will work on and on all the time.

"What, they say, the Chinese won't assimilate. We don't want them to. Send them back when their contract is up. Bring over a few more coolies, period, say for five years, and then send them back.

"What we want is labor."

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES

Washington, May 12.—Organized plumbers in the nation's capital have raised wages from $4.50 a day to $5 a day.

Peoria, Ill., May 12.—After a short strike, plumbers in this city raised wages $1 a day. The new rate is $9.